

ORIGINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FORT WORTH DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

STEVEN E. FISACKERLY (01)

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FILED

APR 24 2015

CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
By *[Signature]*
Deputy

No. 4-15-CR-98-A

INFORMATION

The United States Attorney Charges:

Introduction:

1. XTO Energy, Inc. (XTO), headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, is engaged in, among other things, the acquisition, development, exploration, and production of oil and natural gas in the United States. Founded in 1986, it merged with Exxon Mobile Corporation in 2010.
2. Defendant **Steven E. Fisackerly** worked for XTO in its Fort Worth offices from September 2008, until March 2012, as an XTO Landman assigned to the Marcellus Shale wells in West Virginia.

Oil and Gas Lease Process

3. A Landman is primarily responsible for all surface and mineral land-related matters for his assigned area. Among other things, a Landman drafts, negotiates, and administers oil and gas leases, amendments, unit designations, assignments, domestic gas use agreements, surface leases, damage agreements, purchase and sale agreements, and similar documents, all related to oil and gas exploration.

4. A Field Landman conducts preliminary courthouse research in an assigned area to determine ownership of oil and gas rights, and contacts the owner(s) to negotiate and execute the terms of an oil and gas lease (OGL). Once the owner executes the OGL, the Field Landman has the owner sign an order of payment and W-9 acknowledging terms of payment and requesting a tax identification number. The Field Landman then prepares the XTO lease packet, including a plat of the property and ownership documents, and mails the packet to XTO in Fort Worth, where an XTO Landman reviews the lease packet.

5. The XTO Landman provides the required paperwork to XTO management for company execution and notarization. Afterwards, the XTO Land Department mails the original OGLs back to the Field Landman to ensure that XTO's interest is properly recorded in the county records. Once the recording is complete, the Field Landman picks up the recorded instrument(s) from the courthouse and mails them back to XTO.

6. An XTO Landman then merges the recorded documents into the lease packet, signs his approval, and obtains additional management approval, if required by the amount of the bonus to be paid to the land owner. The XTO Landman then internally routes the lease packet to the XTO's Land Obligations Office, where a check is issued. The check is routed via interoffice mail to the Land Department and back to the issuing XTO Landman. From there, it is sent to the oil and gas owner via certified mail.

7. XTO Landmen have access to, and use, computer systems specific to XTO, which XTO uses to map oil and gas leases, track costs related to oil and gas bonus payments, and access oil and gas leases.

The Scheme and Artifice to Defraud

8. Beginning in or about January 2009, and ending in or about January 2011, **Fisackerly** devised and operated a scheme and artifice to defraud XTO and to obtain money and property by making false material statements and representations.

9. As an XTO Landman, **Fisackerly** used his knowledge of XTO's OGL process, his access to previously approved OGLs and reports, XTO computer systems, Harrison County, West Virginia's online Document Inquiry public records database, and his knowledge of XTO's oil and gas interests in West Virginia to generate bogus OGLs. He used existing OGLs and/or existing properties in areas of West Virginia where XTO had property interests. He altered/falsified the existing information to generate the bogus documents.

10. On January 15, 2009, **Fisackerly** selected a valid, existing XTO OGL and lease packet from legitimate landowner, J.G. He altered the XTO OGL and lease packet related to J.G.'s property to show falsely that another individual, E.C., was the landowner. **Fisackerly** prepared and organized the false OGL documentation under E.C.'s name, and routed the lease packet for management approval. Once approved, XTO issued a bonus check in the amount of \$180,402.50 to E.C., which **Fisackerly** received from the XTO Land Department. On May 22, 2009, the XTO bonus check was deposited into a First National Bank account ending in xxxx0254, which was controlled by E.C. After the check was deposited, E.C. wrote two personal checks to **Fisackerly** from E.C.'s First National Bank account, totaling \$130,000. One check was in the amount of \$40,000, dated June 2, 2009, and the other was in the amount of \$90,000, dated June 5, 2009. Both

E.C. checks were deposited into **Fisackerly's** Bank of America account ending in xxxx0504. E.C. kept the remaining money.

11. In furtherance of the scheme to defraud XTO, on September 30, 2010, **Fisackerly** also created a sham company called Parallel Interests, LLC. Using LegalZoom, an online service that helps customers create legal documents, **Fisackerly** created a limited liability company in West Virginia, listing himself as the 100 percent member. In the formation questionnaire, he stated the reason for creating the company was for mineral interests. LegalZoom sent paperwork by private or commercial carrier, that is, Federal Express, to **Fisacklery** that included the Articles of Incorporation for Parallel Interests, LLC, and the Operating Agreement from Los Angeles, California to Fort Worth, Texas.

12. To further the scheme, on December 21, 2010, **Fisackerly** opened a Bank of America bank account ending in xxxx8177, in Fort Worth, Texas, which listed Parallel Interests, LLC, on the signature card and named **Fisackerly** as the only signer on the account.

13. **Fisackerly** created false OGLs and lease packets in the name of Paul Hinkle, President of Parallel Interests, LLC, and executed the documents with a forged notary stamp. **Fisackerly** created fraudulent deeds and Harrison County Clerk reference numbers for supporting documentation. **Fisackerly** provided a nonexistent Post Office Box as the mailing address for the bonus checks. **Fisackerly** organized the fraudulent documentation and approved the order of payments. He then obtained additional management approvals and routed the lease packets to XTO's Land Department, where

bonus checks for Parallel Interests, LLC were issued. From there, the bonus checks were routed back to **Fisackerly**. He then deposited them into the Parallel Interests Bank of America account ending in xxxx8177, which he controlled.

14. **Fisackerly** engaged in approximately nine fraudulent transactions during the course of the scheme, causing XTO to issue checks totaling \$1,005,131 made payable to E.C. or Parallel Interests, LLC.

[Remainder of page intentionally blank]

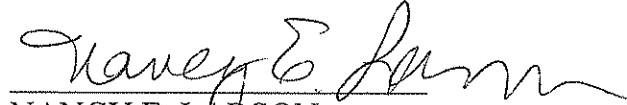
Count One
Mail Fraud
(Violation 18 U.S.C. §1341)

The United States Attorney realleges the allegations set forth in the Introduction and the Scheme and Artifice to Defraud paragraphs of this Information.

On about September 30, 2010, in the Fort Worth Division of the Northern District of Texas, defendant **Steven Ernest Fisackerly**, for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the above scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of materially false representations, knowingly caused to be sent and delivered through a private interstate carrier, that is, Federal Express, from LegalZoom in Los Angeles, California to Fort Worth, Texas, paperwork related to the creation of Parallel Interests, LLC, a sham company created in furtherance of the scheme to defraud.

In violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341.

JOHN R. PARKER
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY


NANCY E. LARSON
Assistant United States Attorney
DC Bar No. 430780
801 Cherry Street, Unit #4
Burnett Plaza, Suite 1700
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-6897
Telephone: 817-252-5200
Fax: 817-252-5455